



# Ruby Johnston Downing

MAR 9, 1923 - OCT 27, 2024



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# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Events</b> .....	Page 5
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 6
<b>Media</b> .....	Page 7



# Ruby Johnston Downing

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**R**uby J. Downing, 101, of Charlotte, went home to be with the Lord on October 27, 2024. Born as a farmer's daughter in the Mallard Creek community, she spent her whole life on the family farm, except for a three-year period. As the youngest of three siblings, she lived through the Great Depression and witnessed significant changes in the world, from horse and buggy to modern technology.

Ruby began her education in the first grade at Mallard Creek School, which later became the Mallard Creek Community House, and continued her studies at Derita School, where she graduated. In 1945, she met her husband of 69 years on a train while returning from Washington, D.C., as he was heading back to Georgia after his military leave. They exchanged addresses and wrote to each other daily, marrying six months later.

An avid gardener and seamstress, Ruby enjoyed cooking for her family, singing and playing the guitar. She had a fondness of caring for her cats and finding treasures at yard sales. In her early years, she worked at Grant's Department Store and Hudson Hosiery Mill. In 1948, she became a mother and homemaker. Then in the late 60's, they formed a family band where she designed and made their stage clothes. Then they hit the road playing military bases and county fairs up and down the east coast. And for a brief time, she worked as a waitress at Herlocker's. In the 80's, her husband purchased a tractor-trailer and they traveled the Southeast together until the early 90's. Afterward, she and her husband Stanley retired and focused on their home, children, and extended family.

A life-long member of Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church, Ruby is survived by her sons, Bill and Mack, daughter Jane and husband Steve Sechler, grandchildren Sandy/Les, Tim/Jennifer, Brandon/Kristen, Chase/Lisa, Steve/Bianca, and Stephanie, 18 great grandchildren, and 5 great-great grandchildren, and her long-time caregiver Lynda.

The family will receive friends at Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church on Friday November 1st at 11:00am with the funeral service at 12:00pm and burial following in the church cemetery.



## Obituary

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Memorials may be made to Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church, 1600 W. Mallard Creek Church Rd., Charlotte, NC 28262.

James Funeral Home is assisting the family, online condolences may be made at [www.jamesfuneralhomelkn.com](http://www.jamesfuneralhomelkn.com).




# Events


**Ruby Johnston Downing**

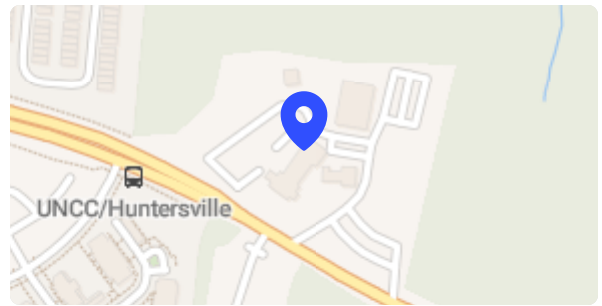
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## Visitation

 **Friday**, November 1, 2024


 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET


 **Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church**  
1600 W. Mallard Creek Church Road, Charlotte  
NC 28262

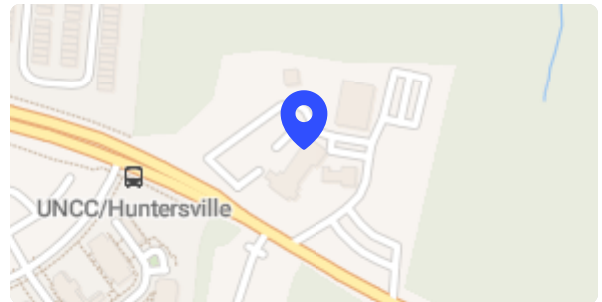


## Funeral Service

 **Friday**, November 1, 2024

 12:00 PM ET

 **Mallard Creek Presbyterian Church**  
1600 W. Mallard Creek Church Road, Charlotte  
NC 28262





## Tribute Wall

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**James Funeral Home** shared a **Video**.

October 31 at 5:44 AM





## Media

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James Funeral Home shared a Video.

October 31 at 5:44 AM





# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Ruby by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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